The members complained about the long delays in getting refunds of amount paid to the Forest Department by having to go up all the way to the Conservator to obtain sanction of such refunds. They requested that the District Forest Officers might be invested with powers of sanctioning such refunds.

Reply of Government.—The suggestion cannot be accepted as the District Forest Officers will be an interested party and it will be undesirable to entrust them with such powers. Every endeavour will, however, be made to obviate unnecessary delays in the disposal of such claims.

SUBJECT No. 21.

Empowering District Forest Officers to sanction refund amounts of that Department.

Messrs. Patel Shankarappa and A. Venkataramaiya, Tarikere Taluk, and T. Chendappa, Tarikere Municipality.

Several members urged the necessity of reducing the rate of seigniorage on *Jambe* wood as the present rates were very heavy and that the people who had to repair their houses very frequently could not afford to pay the present high rate. They wantd that the rates should be reduced to, at least, Re. 1 per cubic foot.

Reply of Government.—Will be considered.

SUBJECT No. 22.

Reducing the seigniorage on *Jambe* wood.

Mr. Danivasa Shankarappa *alias* Gundappa, Narasimharajapura Sub-Taluk.

The members represented that as in the Bombay Presidency, the sandal trees growing on private lands might be considered as the property of the occupant of the land, as the present State monopoly of the trees offered no inducement to the occupant to take any interest in the rearing of the trees.

The First Member of Council.—explained that Government had framed rules for the grant of bonuses to owners of land who reared sandal trees and that that was sufficient inducement, if they wanted any, to grow such valuable trees.

Some of the members complained that so far as they were aware there was not a single case in which bonus was given to the raiyats.

Reply of Government.—The State monopoly in sandalwood cannot be relaxed and occupants of land cannot be given any proprietory interest in the sandal trees growing on their land. If the existing rules as regards grant of bonuses are not working satisfactorily, they would be examined and revised wherever necessary.

SUBJECT No. 23.

Grant of the right of ownership of sandal trees growing on occupied lands to the concerned occupants.

Messrs. D. S. Mallappa and Chikkathimme Gowda, Tiptur Taluk.

The member complained that the present value of future bonus included in the upset price of land containing sandal trees disposed of to the raiyats was in most cases excessive and that the rule required considerable revision. He requested that the rules that were being adopted in the Shimoga Taluk where no restrictions of the kind were imposed might also be applied in the case of Honnali and Nagar Taluks where the difficulty was particularily great.

Reply of Government.—The question will be examined.

SUBJECT No. 24.

Abolition of the levy of sandal bonus.

Mr. P. Venkappaiya, Shimoga Taluk.

The member stated that the present shortage in the collection and disposal of sandlwood was resulting in considerable loss to Government by fire in the forests and that from this point of view he would urge that larger quantities of wood should be collected and so much of this wood as was not wanted by the Sandal Oil Factories might be sold to others.

Reply of Government.—A certain amount of loss is inevitable and it is not possible to change the present policy.

SUBJECT No. 25.

Renewal of the practice of the annual collection and auction of sandalwood.

Mr. C. Rasoolkhan, Anjuman-E-Islamia, Chikmagalur.